



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Thursday, January 1, 2026



# State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



# SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	<a href="mailto:Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com">Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Octavio Rios	(850) 328-9593	<a href="mailto:Octavio.Rios@em.myflorida.com">Octavio.Rios@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:paige.lay@em.myflorida.com">paige.lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2  
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6  
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Leave	See Coverage
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2/4

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

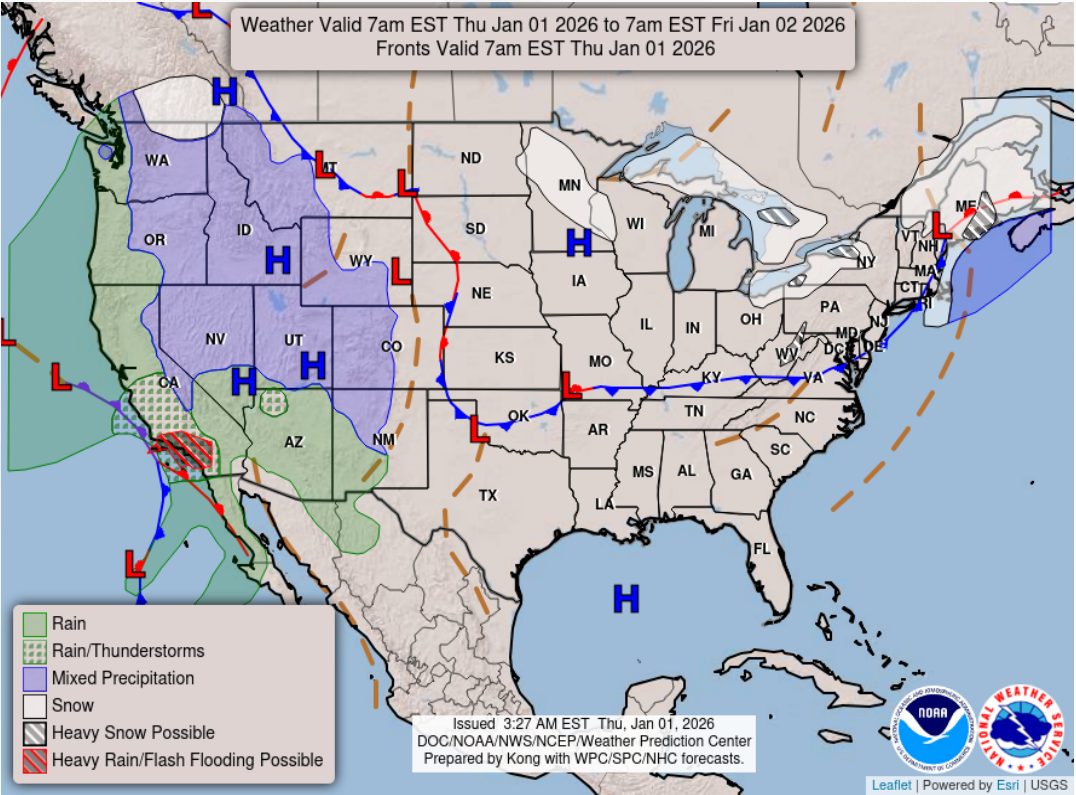
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable





# Meteorology Summary

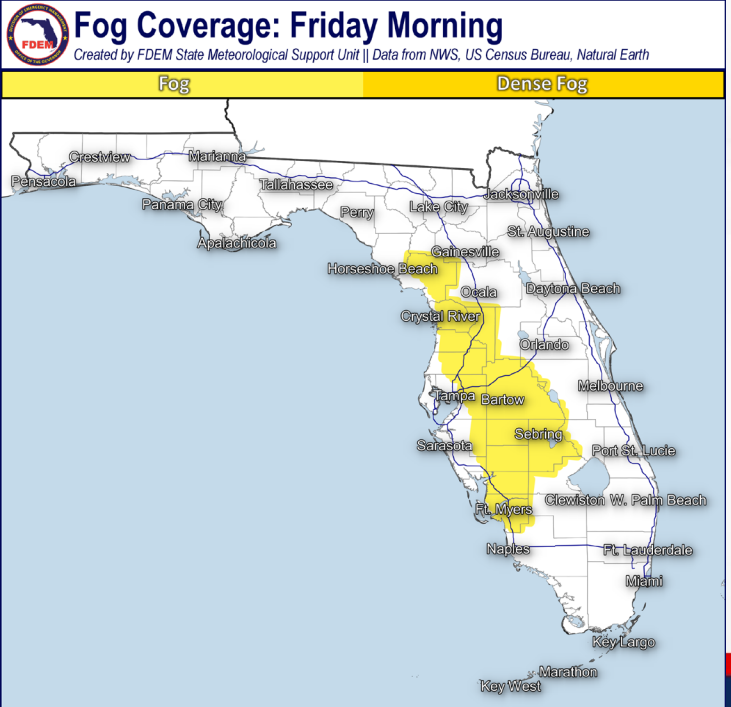
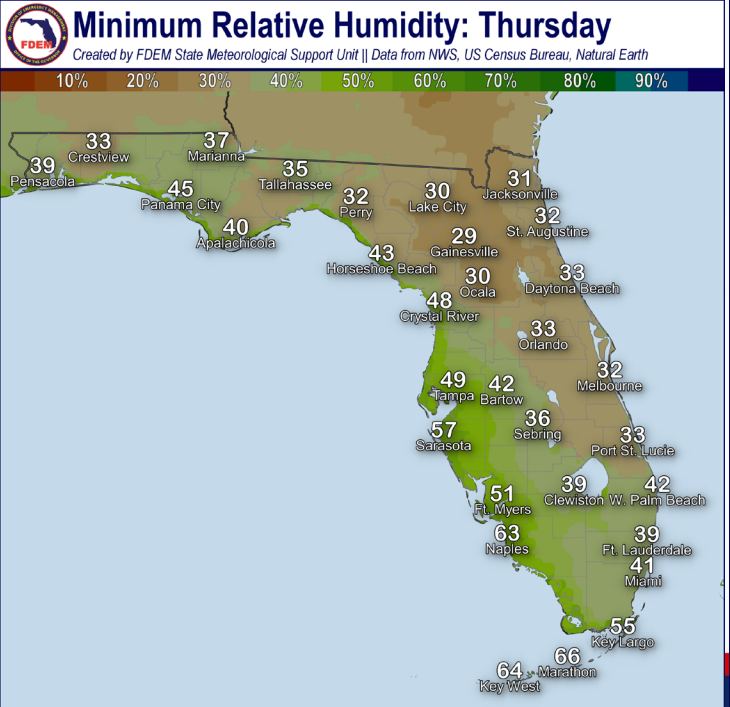


Today's Weather Map

*Happy New Year*

**2026**

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)		L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)			L			L	L		L	
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	L	M	M		M	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.35 ft. (1.30 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	468 (0) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



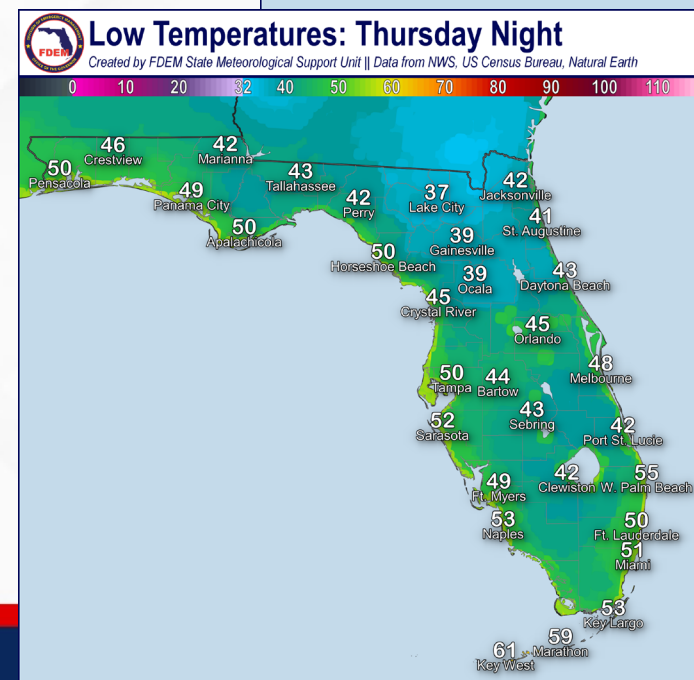
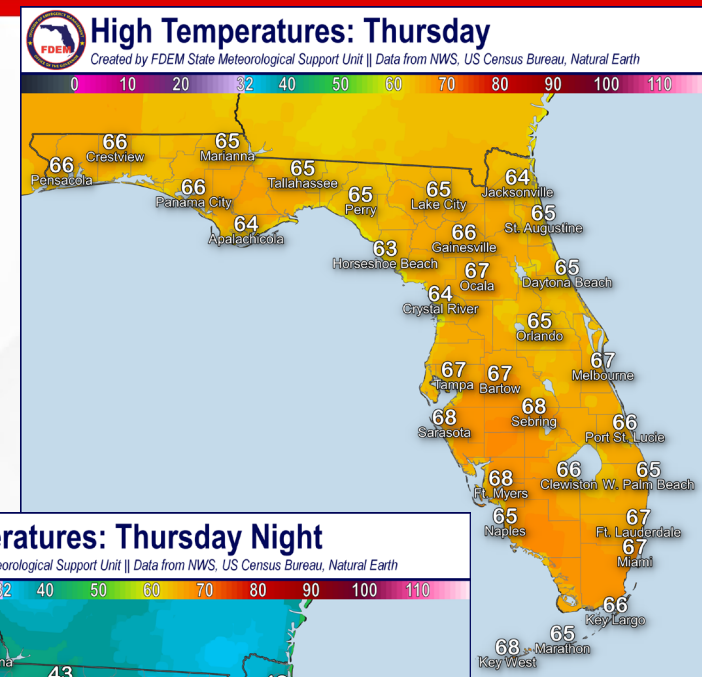


# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Abundant sunshine and near-zero rain chances can be expected across Florida as we welcome the New Year! An area of high pressure over the Gulf will gradually migrate eastward through the day allowing for temperatures to trend warmer by this afternoon, with afternoon highs reaching the middle to upper 60s statewide.

While conditions tonight will remain above freezing, clear skies and calming winds will promote another chilly night for the Sunshine State. Overnight low temperatures in the **middle to upper 30s** can be expected across interior portions of the eastern Florida Panhandle and Suwannee River Valley, with isolated pockets of **patchy frost** possible for elevated and grassy surfaces. Widespread lows in the 40s and 50s can be expected elsewhere, with lower 60s forecast along the Florida Keys. The reintroduction of limited low-level moisture along portions of the western Florida Peninsula may promote the development of **fog and low clouds** tonight into Friday morning.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for most Florida beaches today, with low risk conditions returning to Northeast and Southeast Florida coastlines. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along the Florida Gulf Coast today, with breakers in the surf zone reaching 2-3' along Atlantic beaches. Isolated wave heights reaching **4'** cannot be ruled out along the Treasure Coast through the afternoon hours.

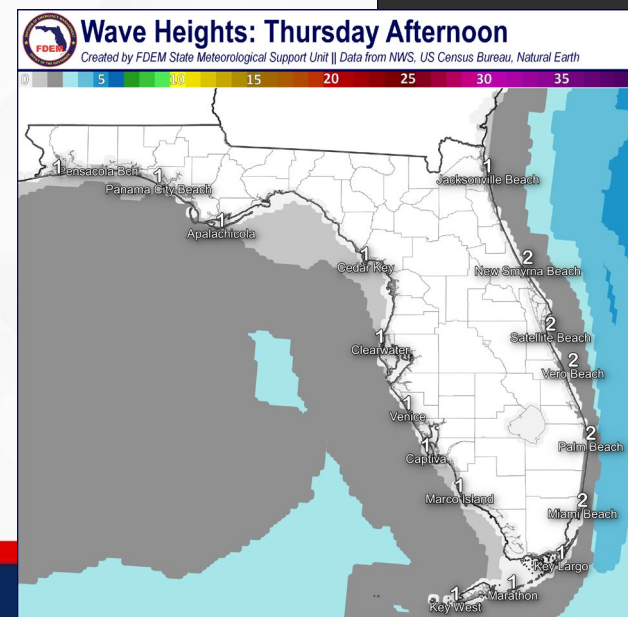
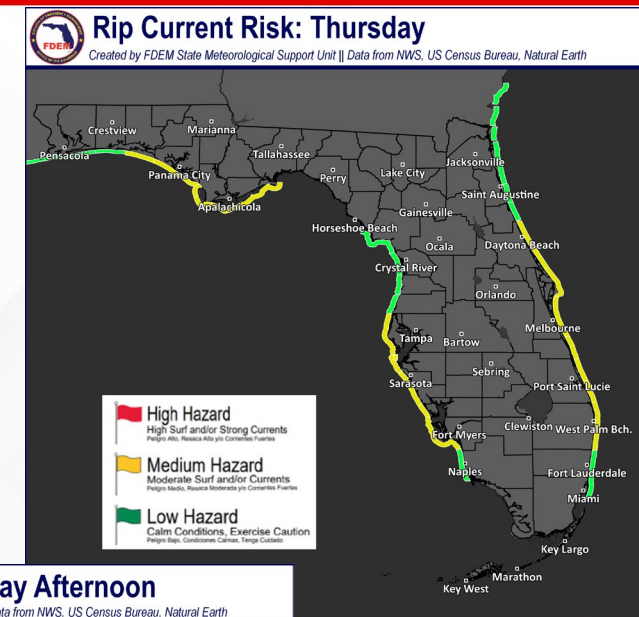
**Red Tide** was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in Bay County. Red Tide was not observed along the Florida East Coast or Gulf Coast (valid 12/31/2025).

**Coastal Flooding:** There is no risk for coastal flooding across Florida.

**Flash Flooding:** There is no risk for flash flooding today.

**Riverine Flooding:** There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](http://River Forecast Center).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 13.35 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.30 feet below normal for this time of year.





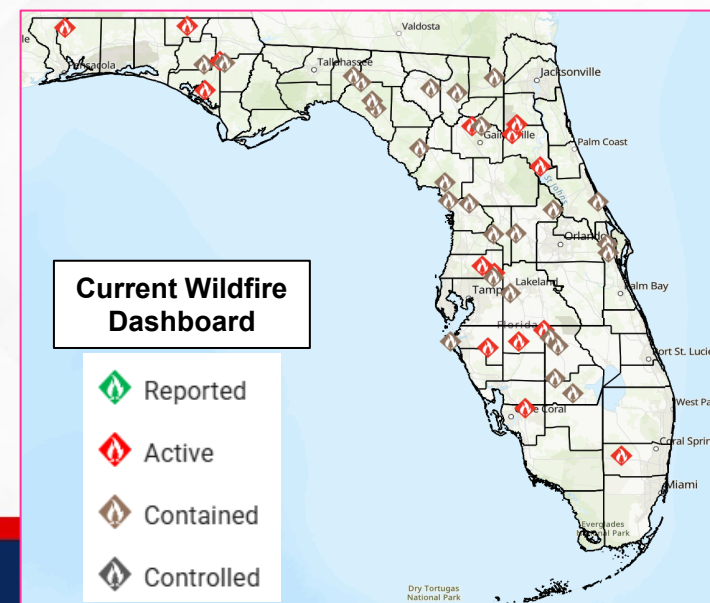
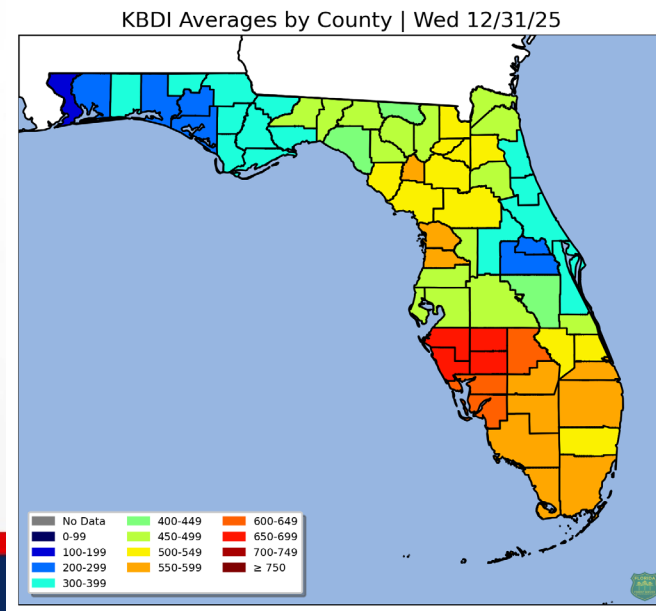
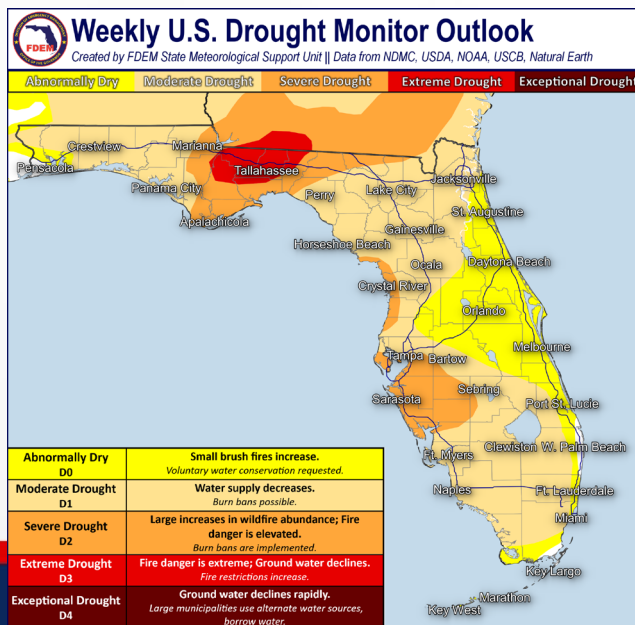


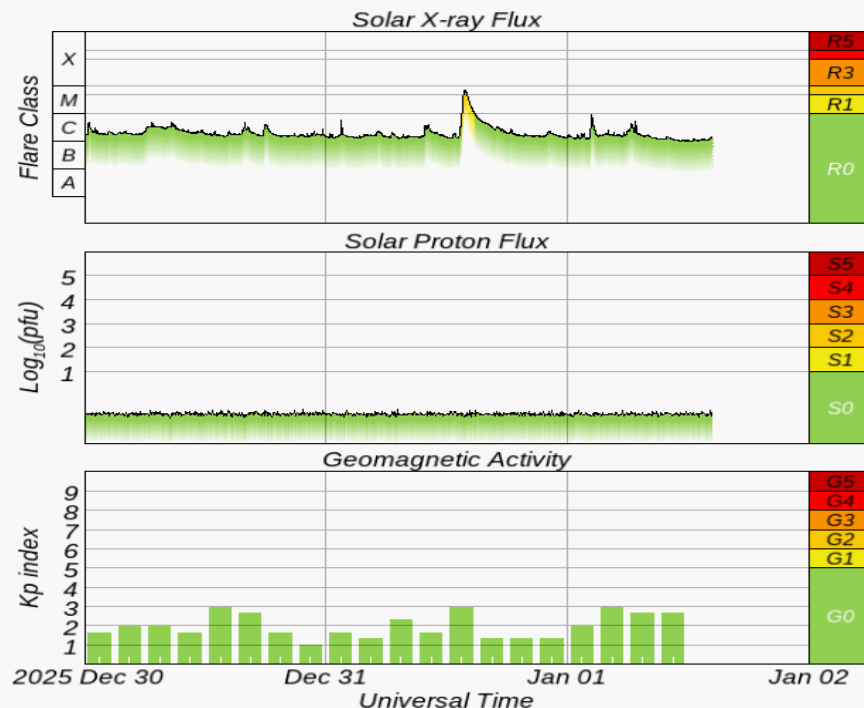
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** **Elevated wildfire conditions** will persist throughout the state today as relative humidity values continue to hover **at or near critical values**. Relative humidities in the **upper 20s to middle 30s** can be expected across North and interior Central Florida, with the **lower 40s** continuing for the southern Florida Peninsula. Winds will continue to weaken through the day; however, northwesterly to west-northwesterly wind gusts of 10-15 mph will be possible. **Locally enhanced wildfire concerns** will reside for locations that are experiencing the greatest long-term drought and dry vegetation/fuels. Isolated pockets of **fog and low clouds** tonight along portions of the western Florida Peninsula may further reduce visibility around any ongoing fires or burn areas. Outdoor burning is not recommended, especially with **active burn bans** in place. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 42 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 672 acres.

**Drought (12/31/2025):** Rainfall was once again held to a minimum and **above normal temperatures** were recorded across the Sunshine State despite a frontal system moving across the region. Short-term rainfall departures continue to run 0.5-2" below normal for this time of year nearly statewide, with localized pockets of 2-3" below normal along central portions of the Florida Panhandle. The lack of beneficial rainfall has contributed to further degrading the rainfall deficits in the 60-day period as well, with rainfall totals 2-4" inches below normal across Florida (away from the immediate I-4 corridor). Streamflows continue to run at very low levels across Florida Panhandle and interior North Florida rivers and waterways, now expanding into the Suwannee and Santa Fe River basins. **Severe drought (level 2 of 4)** has expanded along portions of the Florida Gulf Coast and into the Suwannee and Santa Fe River basins on the updated Drought Monitor, with **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** now reaching the southern Space Coast. **Extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** persists across interior portions of the eastern Florida Panhandle. Our next chance for rainfall returns this weekend; however, rainfall totals do not appear substantial enough to allow for category improvements.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **468 (0)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **28** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G1 to G2 Watches</b> <i>(through 1/3/2026)</i>	M7 Solar Flare
X-class: 20%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/1	1/2
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%

**Space Weather:** While overall solar activity is expected to be low, M-class (strong) solar flares continue to be likely within our active sunspot regions. Sunspots #4324 and #4325 continue to pose a threat of X-class (significant) solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany the strongest and most organized flare activity. A combination of coronal hole influences and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) activity from 12/28/2025 may result in a disturbed solar wind pattern for the next few days. This will result in the geomagnetic field reaching unsettled to G1 (minor) storming levels today, gradually building to G2 (moderate) storming by Friday as the CME arrives. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
Phone:	800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)	Operational	
Backup Landline:	850-487-3234, 850-487-3228	Operational	
Fax:	850-815-4979	Operational	
Email:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	Operational	
SLERS:	DEM Statewide	Operational	
FNARS:	WGY974	Operational	
Federal NAWAS:	State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Message:	FL.000- State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Voice:	FL SWP- State Watch Office	Operational	
IPAWS:	LP.1 Stations via Emnet	Operational	
FIN:	SOFEOC	Operational	
Satellite Phones:	MSAT 888-890-5178 or Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
Website:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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